

- Approximately 84% of BC households were "online" in 2010
- Full-time workers in BC lost 9.3 days for personal reasons in 2010
- Aboriginal women more likely to be victims of spousal violence

The Economy

- The operating costs of BC farmers continued to exceed their income (cash receipts and income in kind) in 2010. Net farm income in the province was well into negative territory, at -\$87 million, in 2010. However, this was a marginal improvement over the value (-\$105 million) in the previous year.

Total cash receipts inched down 0.2% nationally, as farmers in six provinces posted declines. However, a sharp decline in operating costs at the national level offset the slight decline in receipts, bolstering overall net farm income to \$2.7 billion (+5.0% from 2009). Total net income increased in all provinces except Manitoba and Saskatchewan in 2010.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Postsecondary Education

- In 2009, approximately 70% of Canadian parents indicated that they were saving or had already saved for their children's postsecondary education. The three provinces with the highest undergraduate tuition fees, Ontario (\$5,951), Nova Scotia (\$5,696) and Alberta (\$5,520) also had the highest proportion of savers (73% of parents in Ontario and Nova Scotia were savers, while in Alberta, the rate was 78%). British Columbia ranked sixth highest in undergraduate tuition fees (\$4,840) and was also sixth highest in terms of its proportion of savers (68%).

Not surprisingly, those with higher income levels were most likely to be savers. Just over four-fifths (83%) of parents with household incomes of \$120,000 or more were saving for

their children's postsecondary education while just under half (48%) of households earning less than \$32,000 were savers.

Data Source: SC Cat no. 81-004-X

Crime

- In 2009, approximately 67,000 Aboriginal women aged 15 years and older (excluding those living in the territories) reported being victims of violence during the previous twelve months. While just under half (47%) of Aboriginal women living in the provinces were aged 15 to 34 years, nearly two-thirds (63%) of the victims were in this group.

Aboriginal women (15%) were more likely than non-Aboriginal women (6%) to state that they had been the victim of spousal violence within the past 5 years. Injury as a result of spousal violence was also more common among Aboriginal women (59%) than non-Aboriginals (41%), with more than half (52%) of Aboriginal women who were victimized by a current or former spouse stating that they feared for their lives compared to slightly less than one-third (31%) of non-Aboriginal females subject to spousal violence.

Data Source: SC Cat no. 85-002-X

Internet Usage

- Eighty-four percent of British Columbia households were "online" in 2010. Households in British Columbia, Alberta (83%) and Ontario (81%) had the highest rates of Internet access in the country. At the other end of the scale, rates were lowest in New Brunswick (70%), PEI (73%), and Quebec (73%). The national average was 79%.

Did you know...

Most (94%) British Columbian pre-retirees anticipate a successful retirement, but some (25%) worry about not having enough money. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

Nation-wide, households within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) - i.e., those characterized as more urban - were far more likely to have Internet access than those outside these areas. There is also some disparity among households with regard to income levels. Nearly all (97%) households in the top income quartile (incomes of \$87,000 or higher), had home Internet access, compared with just over half (54%) of households in the lowest quartile (those with incomes of \$30,000 or less). Among Canadian households without Internet access, the most common reasons for opting out included lack of interest or need for the service (56%), cost of service or equipment (20%), lack of devices such as computers (18%) and lack of confidence, knowledge or skills (12%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Work Absences

- During an average week in 2010, about 8% of full-time employees (excluding those on parental and maternity leave) in Canada were absent from work for all or part of the week due to illness or other personal reasons. On average, full-time employees missed 9.1 days of work (7.4 due to illness and 1.7 due to other personal or family reasons) with men (7.6 days) losing fewer days of work than women (11.0 days).

Absences due to illness were most closely linked with the age of the worker. Younger full-time workers (aged 15 to 19 years) lost just 4.7 days due to illness or disability in 2010. However, those aged 55 to 64 years were away from their jobs an average of 11.2 days as a result of illness or disability. The presence of preschool-age children played a significant role in the number of days lost for reasons other than illness. Those with at least one preschool-age child lost an average of 3.1 days while those without children missed just 1.4 days.

Full-time employees in the public sector lost more work time (11.8 days) for personal reasons than their private-sector counterparts (8.2

days). Workers in health care & social assistance (13.4 days), public administration (11.8 days) and transportation & warehousing (10.8 days) were the most likely to miss work. Those employed in professional, scientific and technical services (5.4 days) were least likely to be absent from work for personal reasons.

At the provincial level, full-time employees in Newfoundland and Labrador (11.0 days), Manitoba (10.4 days), New Brunswick (10.4 days) and Quebec (10.4 days) missed the most work due to personal reasons, while those in Ontario (8.2 days) and Alberta (8.1 days) were absent for fewer days. Full-time workers in British Columbia missed an average of 9.3 days due to personal reasons in 2010, the fourth lowest in the country.

Data Source: SC Cat no. 75-001-X

The Nation

- Canadian corporations reported a 4.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) boost in operating profits during the first quarter of 2011 as 11 of 22 key industries posted increases. Oil & gas extractors saw profits climb by one-sixth (+16.6%) from the previous quarter, while profits were up more than a third (+38.5%) for the country's petroleum & coal producers. Overall, operating profits in the non-financial sector climbed 2.2%, bolstered by a 10.8% jump in manufacturing profits. Meanwhile, the financial sector saw a 10.1% increase in profits.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- Canada's composite leading index, a bellwether for the country's economic health, jumped 0.8% in April. In all, eight of ten major components of the index registered an increase compared to the previous month. On the manufacturing front, the average workweek continued to lengthen (+0.3%), while stronger sales helped push the ratio of shipments to inventories higher (+0.02). However, the housing index slipped 0.4% lower as housing starts stalled.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

*Infoline Issue: 11-21
May 27, 2011*

Recent Trends in the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Labour Force Participation

The Labour Force Survey

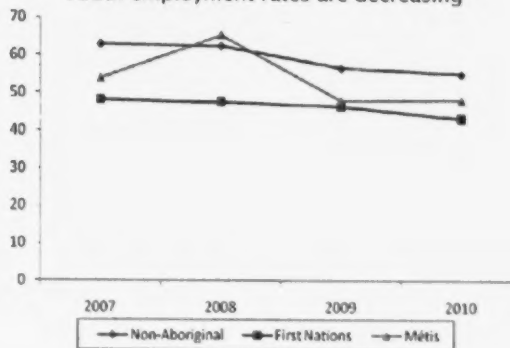
Since April 2004, Statistics Canada has been collecting data through the monthly Labour Force Survey on the labour market status of Aboriginal peoples living off-reserve. To gain additional information for the British Columbia component of the survey, the Province sponsored an increased sample, which was phased in over six months starting in October 2004. BC now has almost seven full years of annual data covering the off-reserve First Nations and Métis populations living in BC. This report presents highlights from that data.[†]

Youth

In 2010, the average unemployment rate for British Columbia's youth was 13.8 percent; however, Aboriginal youth still face higher incidences of unemployment. Their unemployment rate was 21.4 percent, which is considerably higher than the rate of the non-Aboriginal youth (13.4 percent).[‡]

Overall, the employment rates[§] for non-Aboriginal youth have been edging down slightly since 2007, from 62.9 percent down to 55.1 percent in 2010. This pattern also holds true for First Nations and Métis youth; however, in 2008, the employment rates among Métis youth increased before falling in 2009 and 2010.

Youth employment rates are decreasing



Source: Labour Force Survey 2010

There are still some considerable differences in educational attainment between Aboriginal youth and non-Aboriginal youth. In 2010, over 50 percent of non-Aboriginal youth (15 to 24) were attending school, while only 43.0 percent of First Nations youth and 46.2 percent of Métis youth were attending classes. A higher proportion of Aboriginal people have attained less than a high school diploma than non-Aboriginal youth – 51.6 percent and 33.0 percent respectively.

Labour Force Participations

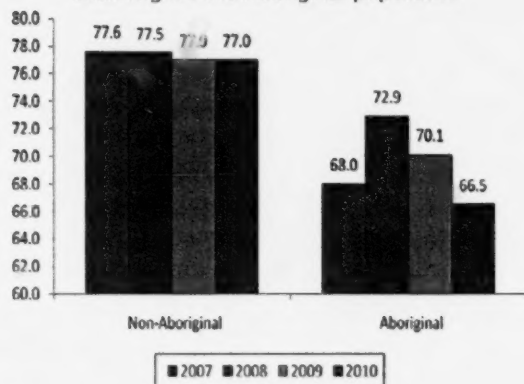
The labour force participation rates for non-Aboriginal persons, aged 15 to 64, have decreased slightly since 2007. Although rates for Aboriginal people increased in 2008, they quickly declined thereafter and continued to do so. In 2008, the Aboriginal participation rate was 4.6 percentage points below the non-Aboriginal participation rate; in 2010 the difference was over 10 percentage points.

[†] The 2004 annual average is based on data collected between April 2004 and December 2004.

[‡] Unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

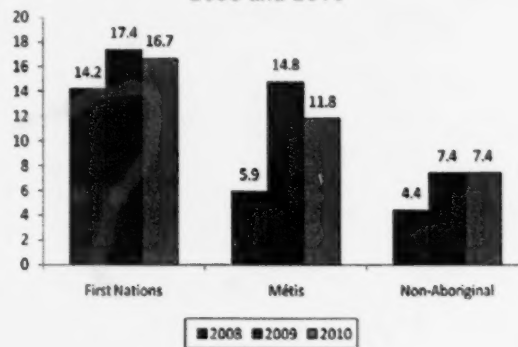
[§] Employment rate (or the employment/ population ratio) is the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population.

Since 2008 the labour force participation rates are declining for the Aboriginal population



Source: Labour Force Survey 2010

The unemployment rate gap widens between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population between 2008 and 2010



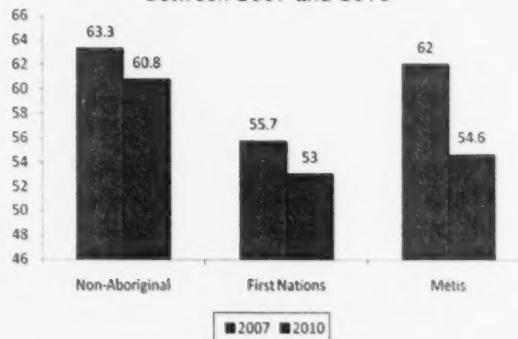
Source: Labour Force Survey 2010

Between 2008 and 2010 the non-Aboriginal unemployment rate (15 years and over) increased by 3.0 percentage points to 7.4%. In comparison, the Métis unemployment rate jumped 8.9 percentage points between 2008 and 2009 and then fell slightly in 2010 to 11.8%. In 2008 the Métis unemployment rate was 1.5 percentage points higher than the non-Aboriginal unemployment rate but this gap has widened to 4.4 percentage points in 2010.

The Aboriginal unemployment rate still remains nearly double that of the non-Aboriginal population – 14.6 percent. First Nations people show the highest incidence of unemployment; their unemployment rate of 16.7 percent is more than twice that of the non-Aboriginal population and almost 5 percentage points higher than the Métis population.

It is apparent that the employment rates for non-Aboriginals, First Nations and Métis were much higher in 2007 and then subsequently fell in 2010. In 2007 the employment rate for the Métis population was nearly that of the non-Aboriginal population (62.0 percent versus 63.3 percent respectively). However, this was not the case in 2010, the employment rate for the Métis population was considerably lower than the non-Aboriginal population.

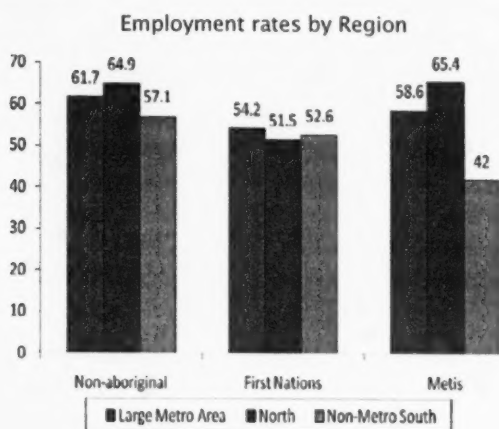
The employment rates decline between 2007 and 2010



Source: Labour Force Survey 2010

Employment rates vary from one region of the province to another. In 2010, almost two-thirds of non-Aboriginal people in the North were employed; yet this figure was only 51.5 percent for

the First Nations population. Conversely, the Métis population has a greater proportion of individuals employed in the North than the non-Aboriginal population at 65.4 percent employment. Unfortunately this pattern doesn't hold true for the large metro areas and the non metro south.



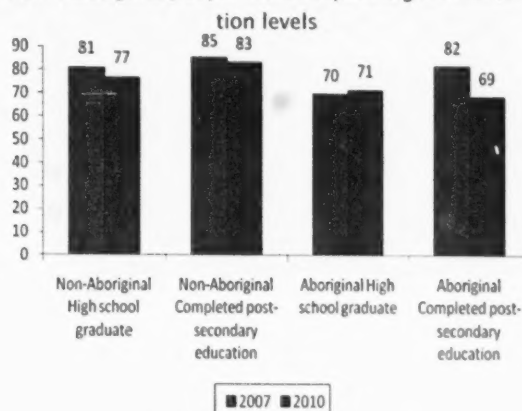
Source: Labour Force Survey 2010

Education plays an important role in labour force success. Large gaps in educational attainment between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people continue to exist in BC. In 2010, over 20 percent of the prime working-age (25-54) Aboriginal people in BC did not have a high school credential, compared to 7.6 percent of the non-Aboriginal population. Just under half (45.8 percent) of the Aboriginal population had completed a post-secondary credential,** compared with 62.9 percent of the non-Aboriginal population.

The employment rates for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations (25 to 54 years of age) who have attained a high school diploma fall in 2010 from the 2007 rates (with the exception of those Aboriginals who have attained a high school diploma). Interestingly, the difference between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal employment rates for those with a high school credential lessen from 2007 to 2010 (a difference of 11 per-

centage points in 2007 and 6 percentage points in 2010). However, the gap between the non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal population with a post-secondary credential widened between 2007 and 2010. In 2007 the gap was 1.0 percentage point and in 2010 it grew to 14.0.

The gap in employment rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people varies depending on education levels



Source: Labour Force Survey 2010

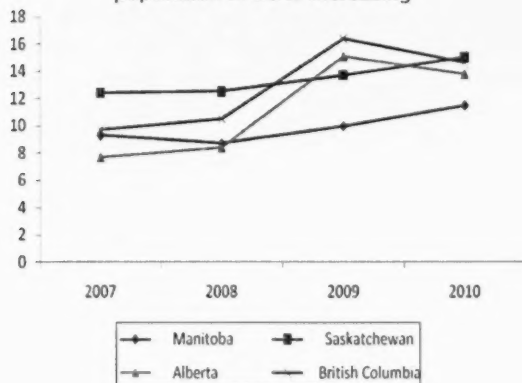
Regional Comparison

Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan and Manitoba experienced the highest employment growth out of the four western provinces, between 2007 and 2010. Aboriginal employment grew 4.8 percent for Manitoba and 1.1 percent for Saskatchewan over the three year period. While the employment levels for British Columbia and Alberta decreased over the same period, -1.5 percent and -5.8 percent respectively. The non-Aboriginal employment level growth was positive for all of the western provinces. Interestingly, the three year growth rate for Manitoba Aboriginals was greater than that of non-Aboriginal Manitobans.

Between 2007 and 2010, the Aboriginal unemployment rate in Alberta increased 6.1 percentage points, which represented the largest increase in the four western provinces.

** Trades certificate, college diploma or university certificate, or degree.

The unemployment rate for the Aboriginal population in BC is increasing



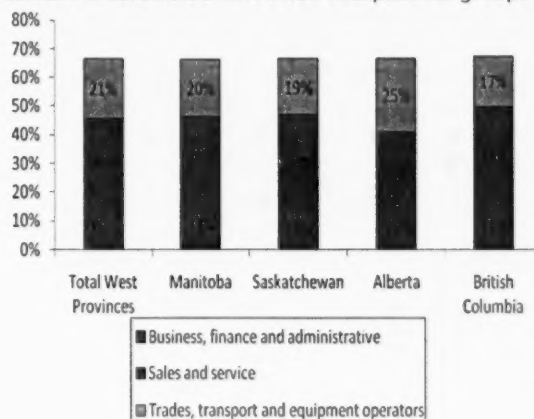
Source: Labour Force Survey 2010

In 2010, Aboriginal peoples in Alberta had the highest labour force participation (71 percent) followed by Manitoba (66 percent); BC and Saskatchewan have the same rate (63 percent). For the non-Aboriginal population, BC has the lowest labour force participation of the four western provinces—66 percent, compared with the high of 73 percent in Alberta.

Occupations and Wages

Overall, the top three occupational groups for Aboriginal people in BC are sales and service occupations (34 percent), trades, transport and equipment operators (17 percent), and business, finance and administration (16 percent). These three account for two thirds of the off-reserve Aboriginal labour force in BC.

The occupation profile for Aboriginal people in Western Canada is associated with three occupational groups



Source: Labour Force Survey 2010

The three occupational groups mentioned above account for 59 percent of the non-Aboriginal total in BC; however, the distribution is different. Twenty-seven percent of non-Aboriginals are employed in the sales and service occupations, 17 percent show up in business, finance, and administration, and 15 percent are employed in the trades, transport, and equipment operators group.

Aboriginal employees in western Canada earn less, on average, than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. For example in 2010, Aboriginal employees with a high school credential earned \$18.05 per hour compared to \$20.15 per hour for non-Aboriginal employees.

Aboriginal employees with a high school credential earn less than their non-Aboriginal counterparts

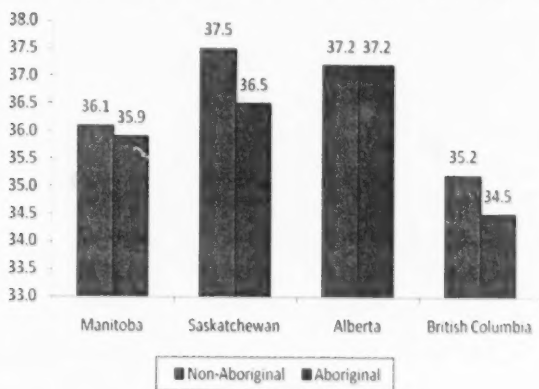


Source: Labour Force Survey 2010

Employed Aboriginal British Columbians have a lower average hourly wage than those Aboriginals of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta (\$16.76 versus \$17.45, \$18.30 and \$19.38 respectively).

Additionally, it appears that Aboriginal employees in British Columbia work shorter hours than their counterparts in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta (34.5 hours for British Columbia versus 35.9, 36.5 and 37.2 hours for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta).

Aboriginal people in Alberta work more hours than their counterparts in the other western provinces



Source: Labour Force Survey 2010

The Economic Downturn

Before the economic downturn of 2008, the disparities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in terms of participation rates and unemployment rates were starting to show signs of improvement. When the economy began to slow down in 2008 the Aboriginal labour force in BC was faced with some considerable challenges and as a consequence of this, there are re-emerging disparities between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal population.



Email transmission information service from BC Stats



also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose **RSS**

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		
	Jan 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,554.1	1.2
Canada	34,278.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	191,006	-3.4
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)	161,851	-1.8
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)	25,374	-1.9
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		
		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar 2011	3,215	2.2
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2011	2,678	3.7
Retail Sales - Mar 2011	4,851	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - Apr 2011)	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
BC	2.7	1.9
Vancouver	2.6	2.2
Victoria	2.7	1.6
Canada	3.3	2.1
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2011	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	8.9	
Labour Force - BC	2,467.6	0.1
Employed - BC	2,272.9	0.4
Unemployed - BC	194.7	-2.6
		Mar 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	7.9	8.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.6	7.7
INTEREST RATES (percent)		
	May 25/2011	May 26/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.70	3.70
- 5 year	5.59	5.99
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		
	May 25/2011	May 26/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$	0.9765	1.0651
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$	1.0226	0.9358
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2011	% change on one year ago
BC	828.11	1.1
Canada	837.75	2.9
SOURCES:		
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada		
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics		
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca		

2010 BC Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey Summary Report

The 2010 Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey was conducted with former students who completed the final year of their apprenticeship training in a B.C. post-secondary institution between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Approximately six months later, from January to April of 2010, 2,750 former students from 29 institutions (14 public and 15 private) participated in survey telephone interviews - the gross response rate was 56 percent. For more information on BC Student Outcomes, visit [BC Student Outcomes](http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/APPSO_Reports/2010_Apprenticeship_Report_pdf.pdf)

[http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/](http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/APPSO_Reports/2010_Apprenticeship_Report_pdf.pdf)

[Libraries/APPSO_Reports/](http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/APPSO_Reports/2010_Apprenticeship_Report_pdf.pdf)

[2010_Apprenticeship_Report_pdf.pdf](http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/APPSO_Reports/2010_Apprenticeship_Report_pdf.pdf)

File Finder

BC Stats has created a powerful new tool to find small area data on the web site. Users can filter on an area type or a specific location, time period, product, and subject. The File Finder app is still very much under development and only a few products have been linked into it as yet, but it is already quite useful so we decided to share it with you and ask you to help guide its further development. File Finder locates data files. If you are looking to search through our articles use the top bar tab called Analytical Reports.

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/filefinder.asp>

Canada Votes – Know Your Riding

On May 2nd Canadians went to the polls. Our Federal Electoral District profiles will help you to understand the characteristics that define your constituency.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/profiles/detailed/ch_fed.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- No periodical releases

Next week

- Quarterly Regional Statistics, First Quarter 2011
- Business Indicators, May 2011